

Oral Questions

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, the facts which are now on the public record indicate that Canadian taxpayers are contributing \$246 million to the deal, in addition to the give-away price. In view of the fact that it is more than a give-away, that it is an outrage, giving away a priceless Canadian asset—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: You are right.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): —would he stop the sale when there is still time, allow a postponement of the concluding date this Friday, and take a look at it himself?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I should like to remind him of what he said on May 9, 1984, in his leadership run in respect of Canadair and de Havilland. He said: "These are prime examples of what can go wrong when the Government gets into commercial businesses and fails to exercise proper supervision and control. Before these companies have stopped losing money, I venture to say that it will have cost us \$5 billion". He concluded that the solution "lies in co-production with a few major manufacturers left in the world". In effect, that is what we are proposing.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister refused to conclude that statement by saying that I felt the solution was in a joint venture with an international company but retaining the control and the technology in Canadian hands. He has not finished reading that statement.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER INTERVENE

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, once again my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Would he delay the conclusion and closing of the sale so that he can personally evaluate the evidence, make up his own mind about it, and give it the benefit of his personal attention before we sell away Canadian technology which took the country years and years to develop? Would he do it personally? That is my question to him.

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, if I may again reply to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I would say first on the question of technology that obviously the Leader has not read the testimony which has gone before the committee, because it has been made abundantly clear that de Havilland has a world mandate including all the technology which is now there. Second, much of that technology remains, titlewise, owned by the Government of Canada, not by Boeing.

The Leader of the Opposition is asking us to delay the closing, totally ignoring the fact that de Havilland needs \$60 million this quarter. If the closing is delayed still further, the Government of Canada will be called upon to put up that \$60 million of fresh capital. Boeing has agreed to do it. I think it is in the public interest that Boeing be allowed to get on with the deal.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER STOP SALE OF DE HAVILLAND

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): For the last time, before the deal with Boeing is closed, I want to put a final question to the Prime Minister, before Friday.

Could he personally reconsider this dossier, to prevent the sale to Boeing of a first class Canadian company and irreplaceable Canadian technology?

● (1420)

[English]

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, during the leadership campaign the Leader of the Opposition raised serious doubts in regard to this company. The finance critic was even more specific on behalf of the Liberal Party, indicating that he would dispossess the Government of that asset. The Hon. Member for Saint-Maurice, who is trying to pretend that he is otherwise occupied, was very much in favour of taking action to change the relationship within the Government of Canada.

Another bidder who came here indicated that it was, in his judgment, a miracle that the Government of Canada had received such an outstanding offer. We are very, very concerned. What we are doing is we are saying yes to solid jobs in Canada and not to a Liberal boondoggle of billions and billions of dollars.

REQUEST THAT CLOSING OF SALE BE DELAYED

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): My question is also directed to the Prime Minister. We are not criticizing the decision of the Government to privatize the company. I want to ask the Prime Minister this. Since it has become clear that the method used to privatize the company made it almost impossible for any Canadian interest to acquire the company, I want to ask him again—they are not bound to close on Friday—will the Prime Minister agree to delay the closing and make an effort, as was shown in the committee not to have been made, to place the company into Canadian hands. Will he make that effort?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the Hon. Member for York Centre, who sat on the committee that we have been referring to, I appeared before that committee for six hours. In total there were 20 witnesses, and there were ten meetings. I do not believe we will ever get through to the Hon. Member the magnitude of what has happened with respect to de